



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase I Laws of Minnesota 2019 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 07/05/2022

Project Title: St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase I

Funds Recommended: \$3,751,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(a)

Appropriation Language: \$3,751,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$2,209,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire land in fee and to acquire permanent conservation stream easements in the St. Croix River watershed using the payment method prescribed in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0272, subdivision 2; (2) \$1,377,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed. Of this amount, up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17; and (3) \$165,000 to the St. Croix River Association to coordinate and administer the program under this paragraph. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Additional Legislative Changes: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 5, amended ML 2019, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5 (a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration - Phase I \$3,751,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$2,209,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire land in fee and to acquire permanent conservation stream easements in the St. Croix River watershed using the payment method prescribed in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0272, subdivision 2; Of this amount, up to \$20,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources to deposit in the natural resources conservation easement stewardship account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.69, as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17; (2) \$1,377,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements 50,119,000 -0 and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed. Of this amount, up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17; and (3) \$165,000 to the St. Croix River Association to coordinate and administer the program under this paragraph. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. [added stewardship money]

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Katie Sickmann

Title: Natural Resources Manager

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Location Information

County Location(s): Kanabec, Pine, Chisago, Washington and Anoka.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

This program will permanently protect approximately 750 acres of critical habitat through fee-title acquisition and conservation easements, and restore and enhance up to 50 acres of habitat for species of greatest conservation need in strategically targeted protected land assets of biodiversity significance in the St. Croix Watershed. Its goals are to protect habitat, improve conservation connectivity, and provide public access for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Design and Scope of Work

Spanning the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin, the St. Croix River is one of the nation's first federally designated "Wild and Scenic" Rivers and is home to a diverse abundance of native flora and fauna, rivaling any other location within the greater Upper Mississippi River Basin.

The landscape of the St. Croix River contains large swaths of unspoiled ecosystems. It is home to rolling barrens and brushlands containing a plethora of wildlife including threatened populations of sharp-tailed grouse and endangered Karner blue butterflies. The pineries of the north thrive, providing forest products that sustain many communities along with seasonal economic boosts from visitors who come for an array of outdoor activities – from

hunting and fishing, to hiking, biking and boating.

Although the status of the St. Croix as a Wild and Scenic River comes with federal protections, it applies only to a thin ribbon of land adjacent to the Riverway. Beyond the Riverway boundary, more than 75% of the St. Croix's forestlands remain in private holdings and the threat of development, fragmentation and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

Through the "My St. Croix Woods" program, the St. Croix River Association (SCRA) is growing the demand for forest stewardship and protection by increasing collaboration with partners. Building upon years of momentum, we seek to increase permanent protection options to landowners that result in the conservation of well connected, functional forests and rivers that sustain and enhance native species. In partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), we seek to protect large intact forest patches that are managed for complexity; sustain riparian forests that are managed for connectivity; and restore lands that are important to the 128 listed Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are known to occur within this landscape.

TPL will protect approximately 415 acres in fee focusing on lands that have been identified as high priority in statewide and regional plans as immediate opportunities for protection. TPL will convey lands to the DNR except when LGU ownership is appropriate. TPL will also acquire trout stream easements along section of Lawrence Creek and Sand Creek which are high priorities for DNR Fisheries in this watershed. Trout stream easements will be conveyed to MN DNR who will hold them in perpetuity.

MLT will acquire approximately 310 acres of conservation easements and develop restoration and habitat management plans for eased acres. Projects within targeted priority areas will be identified through a competitive RFP process and subsequently ranked based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state. MLT will also restore and enhance 50 acres of habitat on existing and new easements. Ecological restoration enhancement management plans will be developed in coordination with landowners and hired subcontractors. MLT will negotiate and close all conservation easements, and serve as project manager for all R/E projects.

The St. Croix River Association will provide program administration, and landowner outreach and engagement in priority areas.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

All of the areas targeted by this proposal have been identified and prioritized through state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity and ability to preserve habitat for species of greatest conservation need.

The project area has a mixed representation of extensive forest lands and riparian habitats that are home to approximately 128 SGCN including: Lake Sturgeon, wood turtles, gray wolves, bald eagles, ospreys, common terns, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, yellow rails, and sharp-tailed grouse. The St. Croix Watershed is also globally-recognized for its mussel diversity with over 40 known mussels, including 5 federally endangered, and 20 state-listed species, such as the winged mapleleaf and snuffbox. The project area also contains a significant amount of high quality brushland and regenerating forestland habitat critical to the breeding success of the Golden-winged Warbler.

Within this region we have an unparalleled opportunity. The St. Croix has been classified as containing the best-preserved remnant of pre-settlement natural communities in the Upper Mississippi drainage. But we must protect the rich natural and cultural heritage of the St. Croix before they too are altered by ever encroaching agricultural and development pressure.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

This proposal uses a science-based multiple benefits approach for prioritizing and targeting areas of greatest conservation value. We will utilize The Nature Conservancy's St. Croix Basin GIS-based Priority Protection Analysis which incorporates Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, Lakes of Biological Significance, habitat complexes and connectivity, along with other data sets to spatially prioritize the most important sites for protection. The intent of this model was to develop and score priorities where multiple benefits overlap – habitat, biodiversity, water quality, water quantity, and resiliency. Evaluation criteria include: 1) aquatic and terrestrial habitat protection priorities, 2) lands important to drinking water quality and groundwater recharge, and 3) resilience of lands and waters to climate change and other anticipated future changes and disturbance.

More specifically, this targeting approach includes data on habitat quality, target species communities, and habitat complexes for terrestrial species with emphasis on expanding corridors adjacent to public lands. The most heavily weighted component of this approach uses data from the Minnesota Biological Survey focused on fish and wildlife that includes data on biodiversity, wetlands, native plant communities, Lakes of Biological Significance, wild rice catchments, coldwater refuge for trout, proximity to protected lands, and ecological connections. Added benefits for water quality are assessed using data on wellhead protected areas, groundwater contamination susceptibility, private well density, and groundwater recharge.

Using results of this Multiple Benefits approach, areas will be targeted down to the parcel level for landowner engagement and outreach for implementing permanent protection activities. For MLT easements, a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process by which landowners will apply for consideration of a conservation easement will be used. Proposed projects will be scored along ecological grounds, and will also consider donative value from the landowner.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Northern Forest

- Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

The Minnesota Land Trust encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement, thereby receiving less than the appraised value might otherwise allow. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. We expect a significant landowner contribution conservatively estimated at \$160,000 through this grant.

The Trust for Public Land will be leveraging privately sourced funds for travel costs and half of direct support services costs.

The St. Croix River Association will leverage \$30,000 of privately sourced funds towards landowner outreach.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

Funding requested by the Partnership will not supplant or substitute for any previous non-legacy funding used for the same purpose.

Non-OHF Appropriations

| Year | Source | Amount |
|------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | TPL: ENRTF - Metro Conservation | \$423,000 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| | Corridors | |
| 2013 | TPL: ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors | \$395,000 |
| 2009 | MLT: ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5 | \$67,700 |
| 2010 | MLT: ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5 Supplemental | \$20,300 |
| 2011 | MLT: ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 6 | \$27,400 |

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. MLT is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT will assist landowners in the development of habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners in an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources and technical expertise to undertake ongoing management of these properties.

TPL will convey all fee title land to the DNR or LGUs for permanent stewardship. Once land has been conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with DNR to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. These properties will be managed and maintained by the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

| Year | Source of Funds | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|------|------------------------------------|--|--|--------|
| 2023 | MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund | Annual monitoring of conservation easements in perpetuity | Enforcement as necessary | - |
| 2020 | TPL-OHF and DNR | Post property | Develop restoration/management plan for property | - |
| 2021 | TPL-DNR | Develop restoration/management plan for property | Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation | - |
| 2022 | TPL-DNR | Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation | - | - |

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought** prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

Pursuant to state statute, County and Township Board notification will occur prior to 30 days of closing and project managers will be made available for questions if requested

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?

Yes

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?

Yes

Who will manage the easement?

Trout stream easements will be held and managed by MNDNR. The remaining easements will be held and managed by MLT.

Who will be the easement holder?

Trout stream easements will be held and managed by MNDNR. The remaining easements will be held and managed by MLT.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

TPL expects to close on 1-3 easement acquisitions through this grant.

MLT expects to close on 1-7 easement acquisitions through this grant. The number of easement acquisitions proposed can vary significantly due to the size and cost of targeted parcels. The maximum number of easements is capped at 7 based on the amount of stewardship funding requested.

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

MLT - Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice in some instances for preparing a site for restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO-treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank. However, neonicotinoids will not be used.

The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

TPL - For land acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following:

The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated?

True

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

Yes, all fee-title land acquired will be open to public hunting and fishing. Lands acquired with trout stream easements will be open for public fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN
- County
- Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA
- SNA
- AMA
- State Forest
- Other

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

The Trust for Public Land anticipates closing on one to three acquisitions.

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes

Describe the expected public use:

TPL acquired trout easements will be open for public use. Easements through MLT will not be open to public use.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

MLT - Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

TPL - We are not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions. If any are discovered, per LSOHC direction, motorized use will not be allowed except for maintenance/management or to accommodate for handicap accessibility.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

MLT - Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

TPL - Per LSOHC direction, if roads are to remain open, motorized use will not be allowed except for maintenance/management or to accommodate for handicap accessibility.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

MLT - A modest amount of R/E funding has been allotted to easements acquired through this grant. These funds will enable the Minnesota Land Trust to significantly improve the condition and extent of habitat on protected lands, making good projects great.

TPL - Some initial restoration will be conducted through release of IDP funds or through contracts.

Timeline

| Activity Name | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| MLT - Conservation easements procured or options exercised | June 30, 2022 |
| MLT - Restoration and enhancement projects completed | June 30, 2024 |
| TPL - Landowner negotiation, agreements and due diligence | June 20, 2022 |
| TPL - Land acquired | June 30, 2022 |
| TPL - Initial site development/restoration | Fall 2022 |

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2024

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Unless otherwise provided, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2022. For acquisition of real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2023, if a binding agreement with a landowner or purchase agreement is entered into by June 30, 2022, and closed no later than June 30, 2023. Funds for restoration or enhancement are available until June 30, 2024, or five years after acquisition, whichever is later, in order to complete initial restoration or enhancement work. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if that federal funding was confirmed and included in the original draft accomplishment plan. Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

| Item | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$480,100 | \$30,000 | -, Private | \$510,100 |
| Contracts | \$223,200 | - | - | \$223,200 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$1,783,100 | - | - | \$1,783,100 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$831,000 | \$160,000 | Landowner | \$991,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$120,000 | - | - | \$120,000 |
| Travel | \$5,000 | \$2,000 | -, Private | \$7,000 |
| Professional Services | \$181,000 | - | - | \$181,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$70,600 | \$46,500 | -, Private | \$117,100 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$25,000 | - | - | \$25,000 |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$2,000 | - | - | \$2,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | \$30,000 | - | - | \$30,000 |
| Grand Total | \$3,751,000 | \$238,500 | - | \$3,989,500 |

Partner: MLT**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$90,700 | - | - | \$90,700 |
| Contracts | \$188,200 | - | - | \$188,200 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$831,000 | \$160,000 | Landowner | \$991,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$120,000 | - | - | \$120,000 |
| Travel | \$5,000 | - | - | \$5,000 |
| Professional Services | \$116,000 | - | - | \$116,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$24,100 | - | - | \$24,100 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$2,000 | - | - | \$2,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$1,377,000 | \$160,000 | - | \$1,537,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| MLT - Staff | 0.35 | 3.0 | \$90,700 | - | - | \$90,700 |

Partner: SCRA**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Personnel | \$140,000 | \$30,000 | Private | \$170,000 |
| Contracts | \$25,000 | - | - | \$25,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | - | - | - | - |
| Professional Services | - | - | - | - |
| Direct Support Services | - | - | - | - |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$165,000 | \$30,000 | - | \$195,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| SCRA Project Manager | 0.4 | 3.0 | \$120,000 | \$30,000 | Private | \$150,000 |
| SCRA Administration | 0.09 | 3.0 | \$20,000 | - | - | \$20,000 |

Partner: TPL**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$249,400 | - | - | \$249,400 |
| Contracts | \$10,000 | - | - | \$10,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$1,783,100 | - | - | \$1,783,100 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | - | \$2,000 | Private | \$2,000 |
| Professional Services | \$65,000 | - | - | \$65,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$46,500 | \$46,500 | Private | \$93,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$25,000 | - | - | \$25,000 |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | \$30,000 | - | - | \$30,000 |
| Grand Total | \$2,209,000 | \$48,500 | - | \$2,257,500 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| TPL - Staff | 0.41 | 3.0 | \$249,400 | - | - | \$249,400 |

Amount of Request: \$3,751,000

Amount of Leverage: \$238,500

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 6.36%

DSS + Personnel: \$550,700

As a % of the total request: 14.68%

Easement Stewardship: \$120,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 14.44%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Outputs, to a large degree, were reduced proportionately to the funding that was allocated.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

MLT - \$160,000 in the form of full or partial donations of the appraised value for landowner conservation easements.

TPL - \$48,500 of privately sourced funds for travel costs and half of direct support services costs.

SCRA - \$30,000 of private funds for landowner outreach.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

MLT – For contracts related to the writing of habitat management plans and for restoration/enhancement of easement properties.

TPL - Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

SCRA - Contract funding will support local education and outreach activities performed by county SWCDs.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

MLT easement stewardship cost is based on a number of factors, including: 1) easement administration & management, 2) monitoring, 3) updating of monitoring workbooks and baseline documentation reports, 4) encouraging voluntary compliance, 5) addressing potential violations, and 6) legal enforcement. The current cost is set at \$24,000/easement.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

Minnesota Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

No

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

MLT - These approved rates do not include costs that were otherwise included in other budget line items.

TPL - DSS request is based upon federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage. The rate does not include costs that are covered in other budget lines items.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat | Total Acres |
|--|----------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Restore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 350 | 90 | 440 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 310 | 310 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 40 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 350 | 450 | 800 |

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat | Total Funding |
|--|----------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore | - | - | - | \$35,000 | \$35,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$1,816,300 | \$475,200 | \$2,291,500 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$1,310,500 | \$1,310,500 |
| Enhance | - | - | - | \$114,000 | \$114,000 |
| Total | - | - | \$1,816,300 | \$1,934,700 | \$3,751,000 |

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Restore | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 440 | 440 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | 155 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 310 |
| Enhance | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 40 |
| Total | 180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 620 | 800 |

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Funding |
|--|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore | \$17,500 | - | - | - | \$17,500 | \$35,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | \$2,291,500 | \$2,291,500 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | \$741,000 | - | - | - | \$569,500 | \$1,310,500 |
| Enhance | \$58,500 | - | - | - | \$55,500 | \$114,000 |
| Total | \$817,000 | - | - | - | \$2,934,000 | \$3,751,000 |

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Restore | - | - | - | \$3,500 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$5,189 | \$5,280 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$4,227 |
| Enhance | - | - | - | \$2,850 |

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Restore | \$3,500 | - | - | - | \$3,500 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | \$5,207 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|---|---|---|---------|
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | \$4,780 | - | - | - | \$3,674 |
| Enhance | \$2,925 | - | - | - | \$2,775 |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *With a priority on trout streams and adjacency to already protected lands, program success will be measured based on the acres of land protected via fee acquisition and permanent conservation easements adjacent to protected lands, as well as miles of riparian and trout stream habitat protected.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Forestland protection from development and fragmentation will be measured based on the acreage of land protected by fee acquisition and permanent conservation easements obtained through this program.*

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

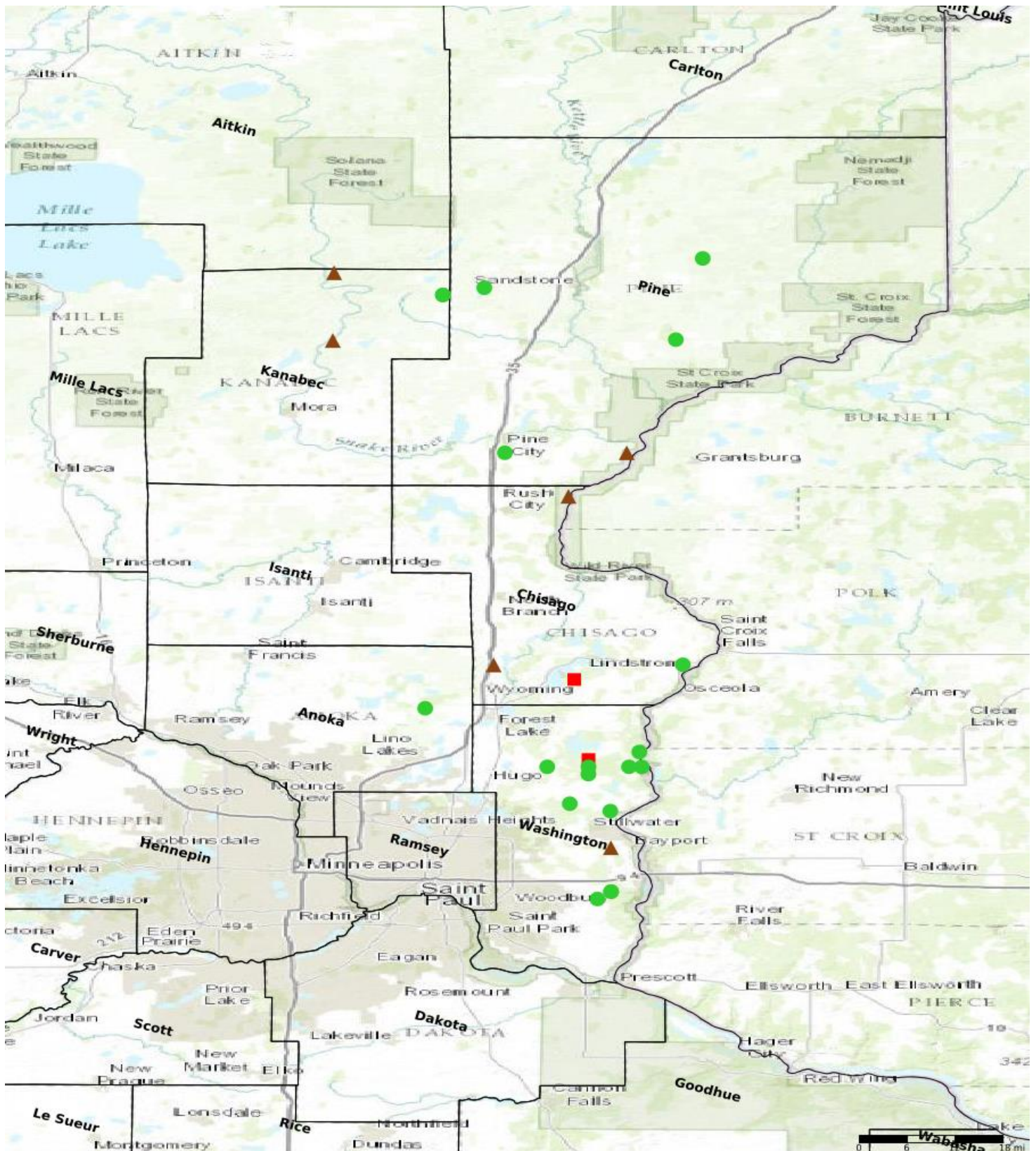
[Yes](#)

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Protect Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| MLT - Sunrise River 3 | Anoka | 03222204 | 47 | \$100,000 | No |
| Chisago Lake Conservation | Chisago | 03320217 | 80 | \$500,000 | No |
| Chengwatana State Forest Addition 1 | Chisago | 03720208 | 630 | \$1,500,000 | No |
| Carlos Avery WMA Addition | Chisago | 03321205 | 62 | \$150,000 | No |
| Lawrence Creek | Chisago | 03319203 | 9 | \$38,000 | No |
| Peace Township | Kanabec | 04123222 | 750 | \$940,000 | No |
| MLT - Grindstone River (Foss, R) | Kanabec | 04222224 | 129 | \$78,000 | No |
| Hay Snake WMA Conservation | Kanabec | 04223203 | 840 | \$930,000 | No |
| MLT - Grindstone River (Foss, B) | Kanabec | 04222224 | 179 | \$102,000 | No |
| Rock Lake (Odendahl) | Pine | 03821209 | 154 | \$390,900 | No |
| MLT - Sand Creek (Kenna) | Pine | 04318230 | 396 | \$0 | No |
| Sand Creek | Pine | 04119223 | 46 | \$103,000 | No |
| Chengwatana State Forest Addition 2 | Pine | 03820212 | 160 | \$300,000 | No |
| MLT - Grindstone Lake | Pine | 04221216 | 634 | \$1,000,000 | No |
| Bayport WMA Addition | Washington | 02920209 | 194 | \$1,000,000 | No |
| MLT - Browns Creek | Washington | 03021212 | 12 | \$70,000 | No |
| MLT - Valley Creek 3 | Washington | 02820209 | 15 | \$100,000 | No |
| MLT - Terrapin Lake 3 | Washington | 03120221 | 78 | \$390,000 | No |
| MLT - Keystone Woods 3 | Washington | 03121213 | 80 | \$100,000 | No |
| MLT - Terrapin Lake 2 | Washington | 03120216 | 16 | \$100,000 | No |
| MLT - Valley Creek 2 | Washington | 02820209 | 28 | \$300,000 | No |
| MLT - Valley Creek 1 | Washington | 02820217 | 18 | \$300,000 | No |
| MLT - Silver Creek | Washington | 03020216 | 46 | \$500,000 | No |
| MLT - St. Croix - Marine 2 | Washington | 03119218 | 133 | \$2,898,000 | No |
| MLT - St. Croix - Marine 1 | Washington | 03119206 | 8 | \$744,400 | No |
| MLT - Tanglewood Corridor | Washington | 03120213 | 103 | \$0 | No |
| Washington County Conservation Area | Washington | 03120209 | 40 | \$500,000 | No |

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other